GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2787
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2017
Children in Beedi Industry
Shekhawat Shri Gajendra Singh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government is aware that the childhood of millions of children engaged in beedi industry in the country is in danger;
(b)if so, the details thereof; and
(c)the steps taken/being taken by the Government for protection and welfare of the children engaged in the beedi industry of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) & (b): As per Census 2001, 2,52,574 children in the age group of 5-14 years were employed in the process of Pan, Bidi & Cigarettes. The sector wise data of working children as per Census 2011 is not available.
(c): Government has amended the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 and enacted the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 which came into force w.e.f. 1.9.2016. The amended Act inter-alia provides for complete prohibition on employment or work of children below 14 years of age in any occupation or process. The punishment for violation of provisions of the Act has been made stricter and the offence of employing any child or adolescent in contravention of the Act by an employer has been made cognizable. Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme for rehabilitation of child labour since 1988. The major objective of the Scheme is to withdraw children from work and mainstream them into formal education system. Under the Scheme, children rescued/withdrawn from work in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care, etc. before being mainstreamed into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
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